

Ahmednagar in consequence of there being no outstandings of the previous year to collect, while the gain in other divisions is due to favourable prices having been obtained in the sale of hirda, apta and temburni leaves, &c. On the whole the results are very satisfactory :—

Division.	Amount, 1890-91.	Amount, 1891-92.
	Rs.	Rs.
North Thána ...	3,655	4,902
South Thána ...	1,946	2,266
East Khándesh ...	964	1,208
West Khándesh ...	12,607	8,097
Násik ...	3,394	4,544
Ahmednagar ...	1,547	1,370
Poona ...	4,470	7,414
Sátára ...	2,669	3,340
Sholápur ...	95	541
Surat ...	1,400	2,225
Panch Maháls ...	1,730	1,942
Total ...	34,477	37,849

III.—FREE GRANTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

229. The following is a comparative statement of free grants of timber made by Revenue Officers in almost all cases during the last three years, from the forests of the several divisions of the Northern Circle :—

No.	Division.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.
1	North Thána ...	340	73	1,633	...
2	South Thána ...	1,166	168	3,049	652
3	East Khándesh ...	...	...	...	210
4	West Khándesh ...	159	45	142	714
5	Násik ...	368	267	217	177
6	Ahmednagar ...	4	297	10	139
7	Poona ...	817	539	519	709
8	Sátára ...	85	354	699	...
9	Solápur ...	...	...	...	...
10	Surat ...	194	...	790	15
11	Panch Maháls ...	307	193	1,547	535
	Total ...	3,440	1,936	8,606	3,151

IV.—PRODUCE REMOVED BY RIGHT-HOLDERS AND UNDER PRIVILEGES.

230. It is entirely impossible to give an exact estimate of the value of the forest produce removed by privilege-holders, as the exercise of privileges is not restricted to fixed times, and is not limited, in most cases, to a defined quantity. It is at the same time very difficult to arrive at any correct knowledge of the value of the exploitations of timber, firewood and other forest produce taken out of the forests free of charge by forest villagers, wild tribes and others, for domestic use, or for sale. The free pasturage enjoyed by cattle of forest villagers inside Reserved Forests alone represents a considerable amount. It would be incorrect to enter an estimate which might require six or seven figures to show it, as the entry of hypothetical figures in an administration report is objectionable.

V.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

231. In North Thána imports of forest produce are insignificant and comprise merely a small quantity of Moulmein teak required for the better class

of buildings, while exports comprise nearly the whole of the forest produce exploited annually, only a small quantity of timber and firewood being consumed locally. In South Thana about 75 per cent. of the produce is annually exported and imports are practically nil.

232. In West Khándesh the duty on foreign timber has again fallen considerably this year, and a glance at the figures given below for the last five years will show that there has been a constant decline in the revenue realized under this heading:—

						Rs.
1887-88...	...	...	...	...	...	16,065
1888-89...	...	...	...	...	...	18,307
1889-90...	...	...	...	...	...	15,051
1890-91...	...	...	...	...	...	13,854
1891-92...	...	...	...	...	...	9,374

233. The Divisional Forest Officer considers that the falling off is due partly to the fact of the Native States at last awakening to the reality that forests are not inexhaustible, and to their instituting closures in consequence; this is not to be regretted in the interests of the country at large. If the markets of West Khándesh were not glutted by the immature timber of Native States, there would be no difficulty in working the Khándesh forests to greater profit. This year imports consisted of timber, fuel and bamboos only, which found a ready sale in West and East Khándesh. The exports of the district consist, for the main part, of "Rosha oil," (grass-oil) which goes to Bombay, and from there the best sort is exported to Europe. A little teak is exported from Khándesh down the Tapti river to the markets in the Baroda State.

234. In East Khándesh the import trade of timber, firewood, charcoal and bamboos declined slightly during a portion of the year, owing to the forests in foreign territory having again been closed against teak and tiwas exploitation; and consequently the amount of import duty collected was Rs. 14,176 against Rs. 14,625 in the preceding year.

235. The following statement shows a comparison of the quantity of different descriptions of dutiable material imported into this division during the year under report and the one preceding it:—

Loads.			1890-91.				1891-92.			
			Teak, &c., Timber.	Firewood.	Charcoal.	Bamboos.	Teak, &c., Timber.	Firewood.	Charcoal.	Bamboos.
Cart ...	...	No.	3,444	9,838	44	875	3,628	7,739	42	1,375
Head..	...	"	100	...	648	3,242	590	5	238	1,865
Bullock	...	"	6,426	...	1,287	21,026	5,840	...	920	19,642
Buffalo	...	"	3	...	2	5	...	...	...	13
Donkey	...	"	51	3	...	...	29	...	4	...

CHAPTER V.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

236. The following statement shows the financial results of the year under report, as compared with those of the preceding year:—

Year.	Receipts.	EXPENDITURE.			Net Revenue.
		A.—Conservancy and Works.	B.—Establishments.	Total.	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1890-91 ...	12,57,501 15 3	2,47,857 10 7	4,87,846 15 8	7,35,704 10 3	5,21,797 5 0
1891-92 ...	13,62,427 10 11	2,32,321 2 4	4,85,072 14 3	7,17,394 0 7	6,45,033 10 4
Increase ...	1,04,925 11 8				1,23,236 5 4
Decrease ...		15,536 8 3	2,774 1 5	18,310 9 8	...